



SR0598

LRB098 14056 MST 48617 r

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SENATE RESOLUTION

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WHEREAS, The members of the Illinois Senate are saddened to learn of the death of J. Harold Diel of Staunton, who passed away on September 3, 2013; and

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WHEREAS, J. Harold Diel was born on July 30, 1913 in Noble to Lucy (nee Ratcliffe) and Ira Diel; he graduated from Noble High School and attended Eastern Illinois University in Charleston, where he received his Bachelor's Degree in mathematics; he later received his Master's Degree in administration from the University of Illinois in Urbana-Champaign; he married Anna Kathryn Parks on July 15, 1938; and

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WHEREAS, J. Harold Diel began his career in education by teaching mathematics and science at Allendale High School for 5 years; he served as Superintendent in the communities of Dundas, Claremont, Stewardson, and Stewardson-Strasburg for 17 years, where he also taught and coached; in 1952, he became the Superintendent of Staunton Unit Schools, where he remained until his retirement in 1976; during his tenure as Superintendent of Staunton Community Schools, the elementary school was built, the central library was established, and several additions to the elementary and high school were made; and

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1 WHEREAS, J. Harold Diel was an advocate for providing a
2 well-rounded education for the students in his care; he helped
3 establish a district-wide art program and he always remained
4 very supportive of the music program; during his
5 administration, the band traveled to many locations, including
6 the New York World's Fair and the Bahamas; and

7 WHEREAS, Following the passing of his first wife, J. Harold
8 Diel married Elizabeth Catherine (nee Allen) Upp on May 5,
9 1996; and

10 WHEREAS, J. Harold Diel was a member of the United
11 Methodist Church in Staunton; he led the remodeling project for
12 the church sanctuary and the church basement as the chief
13 architect and carpenter; he served as the church treasurer and
14 on the church board for many years; he was a member of the
15 local Rotary Club, the Staunton Country Club, and was a
16 die-hard Chicago Cubs fan; and

17 WHEREAS, J. Harold Diel was preceded in death by his first
18 wife, Anna Kathryn; his grandson, Brad Franz; and his sister,
19 Marie Schnepper; and

20 WHEREAS, J. Harold Diel is survived by his wife, Elizabeth;
21 his children, Ada Jean (Ken) Franz, Gene (Linda Brown) Diel,

1 and Ruth Ann (Ray) Henke; his 9 grandchildren; and his 19
2 great-grandchildren; therefore, be it

3 RESOLVED, BY THE SENATE OF THE NINETY-EIGHTH GENERAL
4 ASSEMBLY OF THE STATE OF ILLINOIS, that we mourn the passing of
5 J. Harold Diel, and extend our sincere condolences to his
6 family, friends, and all who knew and loved him; and be it
7 further

8 RESOLVED, That a suitable copy of this resolution be
9 presented to the family of J. Harold Diel as an expression of
10 our deepest sympathy.